

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A terminal electrode forming method for chip-style electronic components, comprising:

an arraying step of arraying the chip-style electronic components on an arraying flat bed thereby positioning and aligning said chip-style electronic components;

an adhering step of lowering a first film coated with an adhesive together with an adhering top plate parallel to said arraying flat bed in relative manner thereto, thereby adhering ends of the positioned and aligned chip-style electronic components to said adhesive; [[and]]

a coating step of lowering said first film, to which the chip-style electronic components are adhered, in relative manner and together with a coating top plate parallel to a coating flat bed provided with a conductive paste layer of a constant thickness thereby pressing the other ends of the chip-style electronic components to said coating flat bed; and

a drying step of drying the conductive paste coated on said other ends in said coating step by mainly heating the conductive paste coated part of the chip-style electronic components.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A terminal electrode forming method for chip-style electronic components according to claim 1, further comprising: ~~a drying step of drying the conductive paste coated on said other ends in said coating step; and~~ a reversing step of positioning a second film coated with an adhesive on a reversing flat bed, lowering in relative manner said first film holding the chip-style electronic components after said drying step, together with a reversing top plate thereby adhering the ends coated with the conductive paste of the chip-style electronic components to the adhesive of said second film, then peeling off

said first film together with the adhesive thereof, and reversing said second film holding the chip-style electronic components.

Claim 3 (original): A terminal electrode forming method for chip-style electronic components according to claim 1, wherein said film is formed as a tape and is fed from a roll and is wound on another roll thereby conveying the chip-style electronic components held by said adhesive.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A terminal electrode forming method for chip-style electronic components according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said drying step executes drying by concentrating far-infrared light to the portions coated with the conductive paste of the chip-style electronic components.

Claim 5 (original): A terminal electrode forming method for chip-style electronic components according to claim 2, wherein said adhesive is a thermal foaming-release adhesive, and the heating of said first film causes the first film and the adhesive thereof to be released from the chip-style electronic components held by the second film.

Claim 6 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components comprising:

a first tape running mechanism to run a first adhesive tape coated with an adhesive on a surface thereof;

a second tape running mechanism to run a second adhesive tape coated with an adhesive on a surface thereof;

an electronic component supply unit to adhere ends of a group of the chip-style electronic components to the adhesive-coated surface of said first adhesive tape in a manner in which said chip-style electronic components are arrayed;

a first paste applying unit to press the other ends of the group of the chip-style electronic components conveyed by the running of said first adhesive tape to a coating flat bed thereby applying conductive paste to the other ends of the group of the chip-style electronic components;

a first drying unit for drying the conductive paste applied on the other ends of the group of the chip-style electronic components;

a transfer unit for transferring the group of the chip-style electronic components having passed through said drying unit, from said first adhesive tape to a second adhesive tape thereby causing the group of the chip-style electronic components to be held at the ends coated with the conductive paste by the second adhesive tape;

a second paste applying unit for pressing the ends, not coated with the conductive paste, of the group of the chip-style conductive components conveyed by the running of said second adhesive tape to a coating flat bed thereby applying the conductive paste;

a second drying unit for drying the conductive paste applied on the ends of the group of the chip-style electronic components; and

a discharge unit for peeling off the group of the chip-style electronic components from said second adhesive tape.

Claim 7 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 6, wherein said electronic component supply unit, said first paste applying unit and said first drying unit provided along the running path of said first adhesive tape and said second paste applying unit and said second drying unit provided along the running path of said second adhesive tape are positioned in a substantially same vertical plane in two stages of different levels.

Claim 8 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 6, wherein said first adhesive tape is adhered, in a state with the adhesive-coated surface thereof downward, to a group of the chip-style electronic components supplied by said electronic component supply unit, and conveys the chip-style electronic components at the lower side of said first adhesive tape to said first paste applying unit and said first drying unit, and said second adhesive tape is adhered, in a state with the adhesive-coated surface thereof downward, in said transfer unit to the group of the chip-style electronic components and conveys the chip-style electronic components at the lower side of said second adhesive tape to said second paste applying unit and said second drying unit.

Claim 9 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 6, wherein the adhesives coated on said first and second adhesive tapes are thermal foaming-release adhesives, and the foaming temperature is selected higher in said second adhesive tape than in said first adhesive tape.

Claim 10 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 6, wherein said electronic component supply unit is provided with an arraying block having a plurality of through holes for receiving the chip-style electronic components and serving to array the chip-style electronic components in a standing state, a reference block having a flat surface for coming into contact with the lower surface of said arraying block thereby aligning the lower end levels of the chip-style electronic components, and a dropper for dropping the chip-style electronic components into said through holes.

Claim 11 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 10, wherein a gap is formed between the lower surface of said arraying block and said reference block when said dropper drops the chip-style electronic

components into said through holes, in such a manner that the upper ends of the chip-style electronic components received in said through holes do not protrude from the upper surface of said arraying block.

Claim 12 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 6, wherein said first and second tape running mechanisms are respectively provided with vacuum suction rollers for driving the first and second adhesive tapes.

Claim 13 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 6, wherein each of said first and second paste applying units forms a conductive paste layer for dipping and a conductive paste layer for blotting or a surface not coated with the conductive paste on said coating flat bed, and is adapted to execute a first operation for dipping the ends of a group of the chip-style electronic components into said dipping conductive paste layer, and a second operation for contacting said ends with said blotting conductive paste layer or the conductive paste-uncoated surface thereby returning the excessive conductive paste to said coating flat bed by blotting.

Claim 14 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 6, wherein said transfer unit holds said first and second adhesive tapes with said group of the chip-style electronic components therebetween, by positioning said first adhesive tape at the lower side with the adhesive-coated surface thereof upwards and said second adhesive tape at the upper side with the adhesive-coated surface thereof downwards, and causes said first adhesive tape to lose the adhesive force thereof thereby causing said group of the chip-style electronic components to be held by said second adhesive tape.

Claim 15 (original): A terminal electrode forming apparatus for chip-style electronic components according to claim 6, wherein the running direction of said first adhesive tape through said electronic component supply unit, said first paste applying unit and said first drying unit is opposite to the running direction of said second adhesive tape through said transfer unit, said second paste applying unit and said second drying unit.